

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296826 TOSEC 240291

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MBFR VIENNA 0620 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0620

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FOLG SENT ACTION PARIS FROM MBFR VIENNA 152030Z DEC 75 IS
REPEATED:

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0620

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FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM STANLEY RESOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BILATERAL BRIEFING OF SOVIET REP ON OPTION III
PROPOSAL, DECEMBER 15, 1975

BEGIN SUMMARY: US REP BRIEFED SOVIET REP PRIVATELY ON
OPTION 3 PROPOSAL TO BE TABLED IN PLENARY ON DECEMBER 16.
SOVIET REP ASKED A FEW QUESTIONS FOR INFORMATION, BUT DID
NOT ATTEMPT TO PROBE DEEPLY OR CRITICISE THE PROPOSAL.
HE DID NOT ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ALLIED ARMAMENT
REDUCTIONS OR LIMITATIONS. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT HAVE
FURTHER QUESTIONS LATER. END SUMMARY.

1. US REP, DEPREP AND DELOFF BARAZ MET WITH KHLESTOV,
SMIRNOVSKY AND ABARENKOV. US REP- IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PRIOR UNDERSTANDING IN THE AD HOC GROUP BRIEFED
SOVIET REP ON CONTENT OF WESTERN PROPOSAL TO BE TABLED
IN PLENARY DECEMBER 16, HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON A
PERSONAL BASIS. DRAWING FROM A LIST OF QUESTIONS WHICH
HE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM, SOVIET REP AGREED TO US REP'S
SUGGESTION TO CONFINE DISCUSSION TO QUESTIONS OF
CLARIFICATION AT THIS SESSION.

2. SOVIET REP SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE
CEILINGS FOR DELIVERY SYSTEMS, WARHEADS AND GROUND
TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN. US REP CONFIRMED THIS WAS SO.
KHLESTOV ASKED IF THIS MEANT THERE WOULD BE A CEILING
ONLY ON PERSHING'S AND NOT ON LANCE OR OTHER LAUNCHERS.
US REP REPLIED LANCE WAS NOT INCLUDED. HE ADDED THAT
THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUCH
LIMITATIONS, BUT THAT WOULD COME LATER. US REP REPEATED
THAT IT WAS WESTERN BELIEF THAT AN AGREEMENT TO REDUCE
CERTAIN ELEMENTS IMPLIED AGREEMENT ON CEILINGS FOR THOSE
ELEMENTS.

3. SOVIET REP ASKED WHETHER THE 1000 WARHEADS TO BE
WITHDRAWN WERE ONLY WARHEADS FOR PERSHING'S OR WARHEADS
FOR OTHER DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AS WELL. US REP REPLIED
THAT HE COULD SAY NO MORE ABOUT THE OFFER TO WITHDRAW
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1000 WARHEADS.

4. SOVIET REP ASKED WHETHER FIGURES OF 900,000 MEN AND
700,000 MEN MEANT THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO COMMON CEILINGS.
US REP EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS SO. THERE WOULD BE ONE
COMMON CEILING OF APPROXIMATELY 900,000 MEN ON THE COMBINATION
OF GROUND FORCE AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER AND WITHIN THAT
FRAMEWORK A COMMON CEILING OF APPROXIMATELY 700,000 MEN

ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER. THERE WOULD NOT BE A THIRD
COMMON CEILING ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER.

5. SOVIET REP ASKED IF THE PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW NUCLEAR
DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND WARHEADS WAS A COMPONENT PART OF
THE PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING. IN OTHER
WORDS, SOVIET REP ASKED, YOU WOULD WITHDRAW NUCLEAR
ELEMENTS IF WE ACCEPT THE COMMON CEILING. US REP
CONFIRMED THAT THE OFFER TO WITHDRAW US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS
WAS AN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS WESTERN PHASE I
PROPOSALS WHICH INCLUDED THE COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON
CEILING AND THE PHASE I REDUCTIONS.

6. US REP IN CONCLUSION STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
WESTERN OFFER, NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE
US AND EVER OFFERED TO WITHDRAW TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS
UNDER AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

7. THROUGHOUT MEETING SOVIET REPS WERE IN A RELAXED BUT
BUSINESSLIKE MOOD. SOVIET REP THANKED US REP FOR THE
BRIEFING AND INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE MIGHT
ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS OF US REP AT BILATERAL LUNCHEON
ON DECEMBER 17 TO WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INVITED US REP. RESOR
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